

Bishop of Shrewsbury: Introducing same-sex marriage amounts to Nazi fascism



Right Reverend Mark Davies will use his midnight Christmas Mass to say marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

Bishop Davies believes the government's decision to introduce equal marriage rights in England and Wales in 2013 is similar to how Hitler and Stalin tried to undermine religious freedom.

The senior Catholic will say: "Past generations have gathered in this cathedral on Christmas night amid many shadows which seemed to obscure the future for them.

"We think of the ideologies of the past century, Communism and Nazism, which in living memory threatened to shape and distort the whole future of humanity.

Catholic bishop: David Cameron is 'devoid of moral competence' for supporting same-sex marriage



The Rt Rev Joseph Devine, Bishop of Motherwell, believes the prime minister is now “out of his depth” and can no longer be trusted by Christians. He has also accused the PM of undermining family life for allegedly refusing to support moves by Christians at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to demand their right to wear the cross at work.

In a letter, the bishop compared David Cameron to Nero, the brutal Roman emperor who persecuted Christians.

He wrote: “You vacillate, ambivalent about the role you wish to perform – the disciple of David or Nero”.

“With such a contradiction between your statements and actions, on what basis can you expect anyone – Christians in particular – to trust or respect you?”

Unitarians welcome government support for religious same-sex marriages



The Chief Officer of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches has welcomed claims the government will announce its support for religious same-sex marriages next week.

In a statement, Derek McAuley said: “Unitarians look forward to the announcement next week of the government’s response to the equal marriage consultation and are hopeful that this will mean we will be free to conduct same-sex marriages in our places of worship.

“We don’t expect parliament to force other churches or individual clergy, who may disagree with us, to marry same-sex couples if they do not wish to do so. However, we do not consider that our wishes should therefore be set aside”.

Tory councillor warns David Cameron introducing same-sex marriage will displease God



Henley Tory Councillor David Silvester warned of biblical repercussions if the PM introduces legislation. He wrote:

If you had been a Bible student for well over 50 years, as I have, you would know that you are proposing to officially condone behaviour which the Bible dismisses as anathema.

Now, as prime minister, you are free to do that if you wish. What you are not free to do, and what only an Almighty God is free to do, is to control the divine consequences of your proposed action.

In this same word, God has written, 'those who honour me, I will honour, and those who dishonour me, I will dishonour.' It is my belief that if you go ahead with this legislation, you will again experience another tranche of God's displeasure within your ministry.

What will happen precisely, and whether this time it will be terminal, I cannot say. But surely the Conservative Party has had enough discouragement in the last year without you and your ministers courting more.

Lord Carey criticised for anti-equal marriage ‘Nazi’ remarks



Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey compared the opponents of equal marriage to persecuted Jews in Nazi Germany.

Addressing an anti-equal marriage rally, held against the backdrop of the Conservative Party Conference at Birmingham Town Hall, Lord Carey said it was wrong to call opponents “bigots”.

“Remember that the Jews in Nazi Germany, what started it against them was when they were called names, that was the first stage towards that totalitarian state”.

He continued: “Same-sex relationships are not the same as heterosexual relationships and should not be put on the same level. Why does it feel to us that our cultural homeland and identity is being plundered?”

Lord Carey also warned that equal marriage would pave the way for traditional Mormon-style polygamous relationships, pointing to an application in Sao Paulo, Brazil, for a man to enter into a civil union with two women.

“That is getting into a Mormon-style relationship,” he said after the event. “It’s a slippery slope.”

Pope says people are manipulating their sexual orientation to alter God-given nature



The Pope said: “People dispute the idea that they have a nature, given to them by their bodily identity, that serves as a defining element of the human being,” he added. “They deny their nature and decide that it is not something previously given to them, but that they make it for themselves.”

“The manipulation of nature, which we deplore today where our environment is concerned, now becomes man’s fundamental choice where he himself is concerned,” he said.

On Monday, the Vatican’s semi-official newspaper described the efforts of equality campaigners as an attempt at building a communist-like “utopia”.

Last Friday, in a message for World Day of Peace 2013, the Pope described same-sex marriage as a threat to justice and peace, adding that it will spark harm for society. In January, the Pope warned that introducing equal marriage would risk the future of humanity itself.

Archbishop of Wales to meet Government to tell them not to ban his church from performing same-sex marriages



The Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, will tell the British Government not to go ahead with a proposed legislative ban on same-sex marriage.

Immediately after the announcement, Dr Morgan said that banning the church from marrying gay couples was a “step too far”.

The Archbishop said although the Church in Wales was not currently contemplating offering same-sex marriages, he said the church believed in “nurturing family life”.

He said the new law had “curtailed” the church’s freedom.

“There are those of us who think it ought to be a free choice and this increases the hurdles for people to pass,” Dr Morgan said.

Bishop of Buckingham: Church will be a fool to squander the option of ‘getting real’ by backing same-sex marriage



The Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson, the most senior member of the Church of England to back the Out4Marriage campaign for marriage equality has warned that the Church of England risks squandering a “precious opportunity to get real” by backing same-sex marriage.

“John Milton determined 350 years ago that although inheritance, property, sex and procreation were significant, they were not marriage’s defining essence. That was a loving relationship. All else was secondary and all who thought otherwise he regarded as Pharisees. Milton’s radical notion, fed by Puritan zeal, was based on rigorous Biblical scholarship. We are only just catching up with its profound implications. If it is correct, people define marriage by the commitments they make and the lives they lead.”

250 Rabbis, pastors and bishops call on Illinois to make same-sex marriage legal



“We represent people of faith from a variety of communities across our state, and we strongly support the Illinois Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act. We dedicate our lives to fostering faith and compassion, and we work daily to promote justice and fairness for all. Standing on these beliefs, we think that it is morally just to grant equal opportunities and responsibilities to loving, committed same-sex couples. There can be no justification for the law treating people differently on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“We accept our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters and recognize that their families need equal recognition and protections. We believe all Illinois couples should have the same civil protections and urge our public officials to support measures to achieve equality.

Dean of Worcester: I agree with allowing equal marriage because 'marriage is not an institution'



“Some politicians and some church leaders have busied themselves over Christmas condemning the idea of gay marriage, and using some odd arguments to do so. For instance, it is said that gay marriage would damage the ‘institution of marriage’... When I married my wife, I thought I was forming a lifelong union with her, not entering an institution.” “My loyalty is to her, not to a thing (let alone an institution) called marriage... The idea of marriage has evolved, and it continues to do so.”

No formal celebration of marriage was required until 1753. Until relatively recent times, it was agreed that a wife was subject to her husband, but we have seen a social revolution here. Few would argue for a return to the days when a husband could sell off his wife at a fair (as happened late into the 19th century).

“Those who wish to argue against gay marriage should not rely on arguments about the unchanging character of the ‘institution of marriage’.” “If marriage is an ‘institution’ at all, it is one with a built-in faculty for re-inventing itself.”

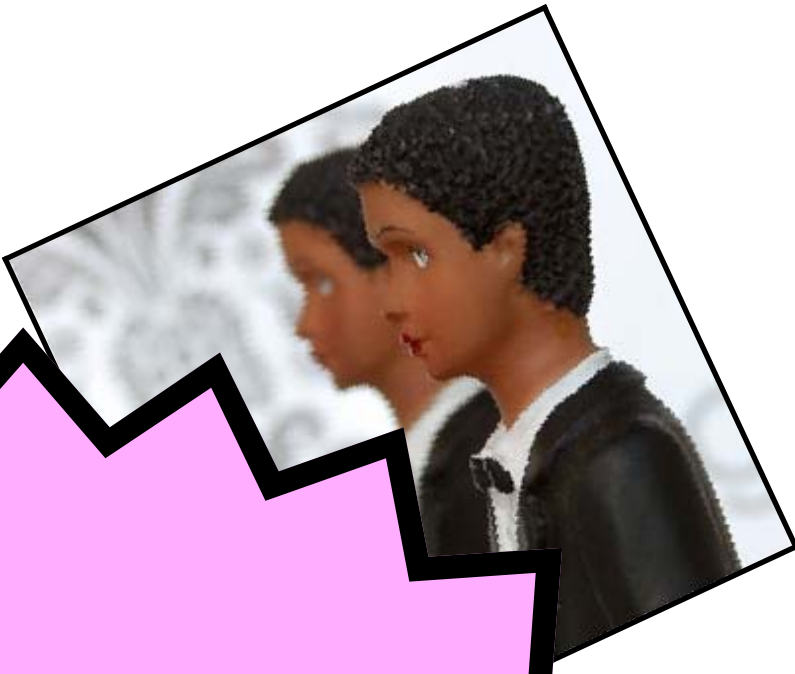
Religious gay Muslim marriages being held in the UK and USA



According to a BBC investigation, there are Muslim clerics who are willing to officiate at gay weddings.

Asra, one half of the lesbian couple featured told the BBC how she got together with her partner Sarah: “We met about three years ago, at an iftar – a breaking of fast during Ramadan. I think a lot of Muslims find that time of year very spiritual and very enlightening, and so I think that’s why our relationship developed, because we spoke about our faith. Eventually we went on a date. After the first date, which was about an hour, Sarah casually asked me to marry her.”

In America, a gay Imam, Daayiee Abdullah (pictured above) has performed a number of more formal nikah ceremonies. He claims that denying gay Muslims a religious union, is against Islamic law.



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